

SPEAKER BAACK: Senator Robinson.

CLERK: Well, Senator, okay, so you want to withdraw 1080 as well, right? And offer 1082. (See page 2658 of the Legislative Journal.)

SENATOR ROBINSON: Right, that's what I would like to do, sir.

SPEAKER BAACK: Is there any objection? No objection, so ordered. Senator Robinson.

SENATOR ROBINSON: Mr. Speaker, members of the body, I would like to return LB 297 for a specific amendment. It's been a long time since we talked about minimum wage and I would just like to refresh your memory some. As you know, on April 1st, the federal minimum wage went up to \$4.25 and what this bill would do would be to make all employers pay the minimum wage if they had four employees or more. What my amendment does would be that any business that grosses less than \$275,000 a year would be exempt from the federal minimum wage, having still the four-person limit on it. This bill was introduced, went through the Business and Labor Committee, was an AFL-CIO bill, but they stated, I had a letter from them, it's been their long-time philosophy to promote minimum wage. As you remember in our last...my last debate with Senator Hall on this, it gets down to one thing. If you want to have young people lose jobs out in rural Nebraska, you should vote against this amendment. But this will help several young people out in rural Nebraska to keep their jobs basically in the food business. I have a letter from an eating establishment in Broken Bow. It says, you will increase our labor costs more than 27 percent. It will increase Social Security, Workmen's Comp and state and federal unemployment. Then he states, can you remember one piece of legislation that has helped small business which accounts for 80 percent of the jobs in Nebraska? That's from a business in Broken Bow, Nebraska. I have one from West Point, Nebraska. It says, our high school kids depend on their wages for spending money and we rely on them for a labor pool. We would have to lay off some employees and cut back others...cut back hours for others; from a restaurant in West Point, Nebraska. I have had over 15 small businesses call me on this and I have visited with them concerning this. I think this is a...I think this is a fair compromise and I would like to ask Senator Rasmussen a question. Senator Rasmussen, would you yield to a question,